Detailed Action

Response to Remark

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 2/1/2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 7,130,758 has been reviewed and is accepted by the office. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-10 and is now withdrawn. No outstanding issue remains.

Allowance

2. Claims 1-10 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-10 are allowed because they are an improvement over claims 1 and 3 of U.S. Patent No. 7,130,758.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- *Unal et al*. (IEEE Article, 'Stochastic Differential Equations and Geometric Flows') teaches anisotropic diffusion models which includes a linear heat equation by considering diffusion coefficients which vary with strength of the gradient at different points of an image of the surface.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELIAS DESTA whose telephone number is (571)272-2214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri (10:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano can be reached on (571)-272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Elias Desta
Examiner
Art Unit 2857

- E.D.

/Edward Raymond/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2857
- June 4, 2008